

his own life—an act for which he was awarded the Navy Cross.

A motor vehicle operator for Third Battalion, Twenty-Fifth Marines, Lance Corporal Corbin was part of a convoy responding to a report of a platoon under fire near Haditha on May 7, 2005. As they approached the scene, a van loaded with explosives charged toward them, detonating between two of the convoy's vehicles. A brutal firefight ensued, during which many were injured and four—three Marines and a Navy corpsman—were killed. Most of the convoy's vehicles were disabled in this initial attack.

Lance Corporal Corbin immediately positioned his seven-ton truck between the enemy and the wounded Marines. After reporting the situation to the battalion, he immediately took charge at the scene, directing return fire. Under this covering fire, and disregarding the continued onslaught of the enemy, he retrieved his wounded patrol leader, placing him over his shoulder and bringing him back to the truck—all while firing at the enemy with his free hand.

He made five total trips through the kill zone to recover his dead and wounded comrades, shielding them from the enemy while returning them to the convoy. Despite the severe damage to his truck, which by this time had three flat tires, Lance Corporal Corbin drove it away from the scene and to an aid station five miles away. Because of his quick-thinking and heroic actions, no Marine was lost after the initial attack.

Lance Corporal Corbin is now Huron County Sheriff Corbin, re-elected to a second term last year. He credits the Marine Corps for helping him enhance the leadership skills that are so essential to his job, encouraging everyone in his command to be at their personal and professional best when interacting with the public.

Madam Speaker, we are grateful that people like Todd Corbin stand up and volunteer to serve this great Nation. He risked his life to save others under the most difficult conditions. For this, each and every one of us owes him a great debt of gratitude. I thank Sheriff Corbin for his many sacrifices on our behalf and wish him every success in the future.

#### REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF DEVOYD “DEE” JENNINGS

#### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the legacy of Devoyd “Dee” Jennings—a hardworking and dedicated member of our Fort Worth community.

Dee dedicated his life to ensuring the success, strength and mobility of the Black community in Fort Worth. Dee was born in 1947 in Fort Worth. After graduating from I.M. Terrell High School in 1966, he attended Tarrant County College and continued his education at Texas Wesleyan University where he graduated with a marketing degree in 1971.

He began his nearly 30 years of service for North Texas with TXU as a Community Affairs Specialist, and served as the first Black lobbyist for Texas Electric. Dee used his own experiences to help others. He quickly became

an influential mentor to minorities pursuing careers in business as he served on numerous boards including the Texas Association of Business, the North Texas Commission, the Texas Association of African American Chambers and as a chairman of the NTTA's Business Diversity Advisory Committee.

The pinnacle of Dee's career came when he began his most recent position as president and CEO of the Fort Worth Black Chamber of Commerce. He left a powerful legacy by using this position to fight for economic opportunity for the Black community in Fort Worth.

Dee also assisted with the creation of two stand-alone organizations that directly serve to benefit minority development—the William Mann Community Development Corp and Southeast Fort Worth Inc. Because of his work with local government bodies, he was able to establish minority and women-owned business enterprise goals.

His long and appreciated service to the community of Fort Worth has been honored as he was a proud receiver of the Minority Leaders in Business Award in 2017 and was recognized with a proclamation for Devoyd Jennings Day.

Devoyd “Dee” Jennings—a public servant, successful businessman, and strong leader—will be deeply missed by our Fort Worth community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, on July 29, 2021, I am not recorded on Roll Call vote No. 253. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF DAVID WITT

#### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Witt on his retirement as the Chief of the Kern County Fire Department (KCFD).

David graduated with an associate's degree from Bakersfield College and a bachelor's degree in Range Resource Science from Humboldt State University, giving him a unique skill set for tackling the diverse terrain that the Kern County Fire Department covers. His interest in firefighting and emergency response were rooted well before his time in Kern County, as he had served with both the United States Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection before being hired at KCFD.

David served in a variety of roles at Kern County Fire Department, including managing its air program, operations, and logistics. In June 2019, the Kern County Board of Supervisors recognized his leadership and hard work on behalf of our community by unanimously selecting David to become Fire Chief.

As KCFD Fire Chief, David successfully led a department of nearly 500 uniformed staff and oversaw emergency responses over a two-year period that included historic wildfire seasons, massive earthquakes, and a global pandemic. He was not only responsible for the safety of his personnel and the people of Kern County, but he was also responsible for overseeing the finances and operations of the department's \$150 million budget. In that role, he excelled. KCFD was \$10 million in the red when David took over the top department spot. Yet as a fiscally responsible, no-nonsense Chief, David turned the Department's finances around and KCFD is now operating in the black.

Even before becoming Fire Chief, David was well-known for his hard work and contributions throughout our community. In 2010, he was recognized by the American Legion, earning a certificate of commendation. In 2013, he received the Kern River Valley Exchange Club's Firefighter of the Year Award. In 2017, he was recognized by KCFD with a letter of commendation, a testament to his work ethic and savvy that set him apart. David also serves on the Board of Directors for Kern County and Eastern Sierra Chapter of the American Red Cross, where he lends his expertise to the organization. He also previously served as a Board Director and as Treasurer for the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens.

David knows the needs of the people he protects, and when that includes nine different cities, 41 different distinct communities, and 8,163 square miles, that becomes an incredible challenge. David may be taking a step back from his role as Fire Chief of the Kern County Fire Department, but I am confident that his tenure will be remembered across our community through his mentorship of firefighters and his leadership during times of emergency response and disaster recovery.

On behalf of California's 23rd Congressional District, I want to thank David for his service to our community, and want to also thank his wife Pegeen and their children Andrew and Courtland for supporting him during his many years of public service to our community. I wish David and his family well as he settles into a much-deserved retirement.

#### IN HONOR OF NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to salute whistleblowers and to mark a day of appreciation for their critical contribution to American justice and to the safety and security of us all. Whistleblowers, among other things, keep companies that do business with the federal government honest and accountable. Working from confidential tips and insights provided by whistleblowers in qui tam cases, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recovers billions of dollars annually under the False Claims Act. Over a recent four-year period, the government recovered \$11.4 billion in fraud prosecutions and distributed more than \$1.54 billion in whistleblower reward payments.